AMENDMENTS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims in this application.

1. – 5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended): A method of placing an incoming call to a telecommunications device from a calling party on hold prior to being answered by a called party, the method comprising:

receiving one or more parameters of a hold function ~~via a web interface~~, wherein the parameters ~~are selected from the group consisting of~~include at least one of a schedule including at least one time period during which the incoming call is placed on hold, and a list including at least one potential calling party from whom incoming calls are placed on hold;

automatically answering the call if the call corresponds to the one or more parameters of the hold function;

playing a message to the calling party; and

connecting the called party to the calling party when the called party answers the call.

7.   (Original): The method of claim 6, further comprising determining whether the called party has enabled a hold function.

8.   (Original): The method of claim 6, further comprising determining whether the called party has pressed a button on the telecommunications device to enable a hold function.

9.   (Original): The method of claim 6, further comprising alerting the called party of the incoming call.

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10.   (Original): The method of claim 6, further comprising connecting the calling party to a voicemail system when the called party does not answer the call within a predetermined time period.

11.   (Original): The method of claim 6, wherein playing a message to the calling party includes playing a message that is resident on a services node of a telecommunications network.

12.   (Original): The method of claim 6, wherein playing a message to the calling party includes playing a pre-recorded message stored in a memory device resident on the telecommunications device.

13.   (Original): The method of claim 6, further comprising connecting the call to a voicemail system when the called party presses a button on the telecommunications device.

14.   (Previously Presented): A telecommunications system, comprising:
        a home location register for storing a profile of a user of a telecommunications device, wherein the profile includes an indication of whether the user is a subscriber to an incoming call hold service implemented by the telecommunications system;
        a services node for:
                determining whether an incoming call placed to the telecommunications device by a calling party should be placed on hold prior to the call being answered by the user of the telecommunications device according to the incoming call hold service;
                placing the incoming call on hold prior to the call being answered;
                playing a message to the calling party; and
                connecting the telecommunications device to the calling party if the user of the telecommunications device answers the incoming call; and

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a mobile switching center for facilitating communication between the telecommunications device, the services node, and the home location register.

15.   (Original): The system of claim 14, wherein the services node includes an enunciator.

16.   (Original): The system of claim 15, wherein the enunciator is for playing a message to a calling party when a call is placed on hold.

17.   (Currently Amended): An apparatus, comprising:

means for receiving one or more parameters of a hold function ~~via a web interface~~, wherein said parameters ~~are selected from the group consisting~~include of at least a schedule including at least one time period during which the incoming call is placed on hold, and a list including at least one potential calling party from whom incoming calls are placed on hold;

means for automatically answering a call placed by a calling party to a called party, if the call corresponds to the one or more parameters;

means for playing a message to the calling party; and

means for connecting the called party to the calling party when the called party answers the call.

18.   (Original): The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising means for determining whether the called party has enabled a hold function.

19.   (Original): The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising means for determining whether the called party has pressed a button on the telecommunications device to enable a hold function.

20.   (Original): The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising means for alerting the called party of the incoming call.

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21. (New) The method of claim 6 wherein:

the receiving one or more parameters of the hold function is performed via a web interface.

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein:

the means for receiving one or more parameters of the hold function receives the one or more parameters via a web interface.

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